bajay 40 fisdi kami", appearing in the Dainik Jagran of 28th June, 2000, if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard when the abatment of tuberculosis is included in Government scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) The news-item in Dainik Jagran captioned "Bistron ki sankhya me vridhi ke bajay 40 fisdi kami" that appeared on 20th June, 2000 pertains to Rajan Babu TB Hospital which is under the administrative control of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

As per the information received from MCD, out of 1155 indoor beds in the Hospital, more than 80% of the beds are being utilised. The remaining beds are not being utilised at present due to civil works in progress. To improve patient care services the hospital is procuring Water Coolers, Desert Coolers, Water purifier etc. as well as furniture, wheel chairs, trolleys in a phased manner within the allocaiton of funds available for this purpose. The Engineering Division of the Hospital is procuring a generator for use in Hospital in order to solve the problem of cuts in electricity supply. A buffer stock of 100 ceiling fans is also being built up to meet the needs of the Hospital.

Under the National TB Control Programme the Central Government gives priority to domiciliary treatment through DOTS. strategy. Only complicated and serious cases are referred for admission in TB Hospitals.

Population Control

1459. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to go ahead with population control but because of their adverse political fall-out, Government would seek consensus on population control;

(b) whether it is a fact that education and better maternal and

child health have led to population control in Kerala and Government intend to replicate these successful models in big State like Bihar, Madhya Prades, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;

(c) whether population policy is the only issue escaping revision; and

(d) if so, what concrete and early steps are being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) The National Population Policy, 2000 has already been adopted by the Government in February, 2000 and laid on the table of both the Houses of Parliament in March, 2000.

The adoption of National Population Policy 2000 mandates focused attention in particular to those States that continue to struggle with below average socio-demographic indices, with a view to accelerating performance in the States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa.

(d) An Empowered Action Group is being constituted to speed up implementation of Population Stablisation Programme in the weekly performing States/areas.

Foreign Tours of DDG (TB)

1460. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many times DDG (TB), had gone on foreign tours and the amount spent on each tour;

(b) whether the foreign tours undertaken by DDG(TB) were official visits or courtesy tours, offered by some multinational companies;

(c) whether any permission was taken from Government prior to undertaking the courtesy tours; and

(d) what action is being taken against DDG(TB), stating the names of companies offering courtesy tours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH